

ANNUAL FORM No. 62.

FOREST DEPARTMENT, SIND CIRCLE, Financial Results of the year 1888-89.

Division.	Timber and other produce removed from the Forests by Government Agency.		Other revenue.		Formation, protection and improvement of Forests	Total.		Remarks.
	Receipts.	Charges.	Receipts.	Charges.	Charges.	Receipts.	Charges.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Sukkur	78,755	74,364	62,718	13,542	16,413	1,41,473	1,04,319	
Naushahro	20,581	21,333	28,720	5,685	7,672	49,301	34,690	
Hyderabad	1,00,154	62,603	40,581	8,175	10,288	1,40,735	81,066	
Jerruk	61,831	47,998	22,527	7,298	10,740	84,358	66,036	
Total...	2,61,321	2,06,298	1,54,546	34,700	45,113	4,15,867	2,86,111	

Hyderabad,
10th September 1889. }

J. G. McRAE, Colonel,
Conservator of Forests, Sind Circle.

STATEMENT showing the progress of Forest Demarcation and Settlement Work in the Sind Circle for 1888-89.

Class of Forests.	At the commencement of the year. Area under Section 34 in which private rights have not been enquired into, settled and recorded.	Area settled during the year under		Area of Reserved Forests alienated under Section 26.	Area of protected Forests disforested under Government orders.	At the end of the year. Areas under Section 34 in which private rights have not been enquired into, settled and recorded.
		Chapter II of the Act.	Chapter IV of the Act.			
	Square miles.	Square miles.	Square miles.	Square miles.	Square miles.	Square miles.
Reserved Forests...
Protected Forests

Conservator's Office,
Hyderabad, 10th September 1889. }

J. G. McRAE, Colonel
Conservator of Forests, Sind Circle.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

*Commissioner's Office,
Karachi, 24th September 1889.*

Submitted to Government.

2. During the year the area under reserved forest increased from 893 square miles 150 acres to 937 square miles 388 acres. The increase is mainly due to an area of 79 square miles, 191 acres having been constituted reserved forest under the Act. There was also a net addition of 3 square miles 197 acres owing to the action of the river. But little valuable forest land was lost, the land eroded being for the most part of recent formation on which there was no valuable timber.

3. At the end of the year there were 31,325 acres 37 guntas of land, which had been selected for forest, awaiting final settlement. Proposals for the settlement of the Tatta blocks, comprising an area of 18,277 acres 29 guntas, have since been sanctioned by Government, so that the area still remaining to be settled is now 13,048 acres 29 guntas. The delay which has taken place in disposing of this work is due to the time of Mr. Mules, the Forest Settlement Officer, being much taken up by other duties. It is expected, however, that the work of settlement will be completed within the current year.

4. The Conservator states that the work of demarcation may now be considered to be practically completed; but he suggests that it may be found advisable to take up certain lands in the north of the Hyderabad District which are suitable for babul forest. Colonel McRae's proposals will be awaited; but there is likely to be a great extension of cultivation in that part of the country during the next few years, and the Commissioner is disposed to think that no more land should be taken up for forest purposes until it becomes evident that the present reserves are inadequate to the demands made upon them.

5. There was a slight increase in the number of forest offences. Owing to the failure of rain in the hills and in the desert, a great number of cattle owners resorted to the "kachas" or alluvial lands bordering on the river, and consequently cases of trespass and illicit grazing became more frequent. The number of cases dealt with by the Magistrates fell from 130 in 1887-88 to 105 in 1888-89, and, as in the previous year, convictions were obtained in 60 per cent. of the cases. When the difficulty of obtaining independent evidence in forest cases is taken into consideration, it will appear that the forest officers have used their powers with discretion.

6. While the number of forest fires was the same as in the previous year, the area burnt increased from 3,572 to 7,275 acres. Fires were, as usual, most frequent in the Sukkur Division where reed grass is most abundant. There is no doubt that in certain tracts, where the grass has become so dense and impenetrable as to check the growth of all other vegetation, occasional firing is beneficial, and on the whole it may be doubted whether forest fires in Sind are the cause of any serious loss.

7. In dealing with the question of grazing fees, the Conservator, after remarking that some revenue officers view with great disfavour the possession of kachas by the Forest Department, and think it would be better to clear and devote them to cultivation of cereals, puts forward a plea for the acquisition and retention of lands of this description by the Forest Department on the ground that they are valuable for the purpose of raising fodder crops, and that it would be as "stupid as it would be cruel to ignore the wants of the

pastoral section of the population by not holding in reserve grazing grounds in a province that has such a scanty and precarious rainfall." No doubt it is important to maintain a supply of fodder or free grazing, but this point does not materially affect the question whether the kachias should be placed at the disposal of the Forest Department or not. As a matter of fact no crops are grown on these lands solely or even mainly for forage, while there are very large areas under wheat and oil-seeds, the most valuable export crops of the province. The proportion which is at present in the possession of the Forest Department to the whole area available is so small that its reservation for grazing or fodder can make but little difference. Large areas outside those belonging to the Forest Department must necessarily be left uncultivated, for the reason that cultivators are not forthcoming. The whole of these areas are yearly flooded and produce a never failing supply of grass and grazing independently of any action of the Forest Department, and there is no occasion to make any additions to the Forest reserves, simply with a view to their usefulness as grazing grounds till they are wanted for timber. The claims of the Department to any land which is wanted for timber, and which is suitable for its production and reservation of which is generally practicable and advisable, is already recognized, and it would not, in the opinion of the Commissioner, be desirable to go further.

8. In this province there is a very large amount of cultivation within forest limits, the assessment on which is credited to the Forest Department. There is nothing in the report to show what extent of land is under cultivation or what amount of revenue is derived from this source. This information should be given in future reports.

9. The financial results of the year, as compared with those of 1887-88, were as follows :—

	1887-88.	1888-89.	Decrease.
Receipts	Rs. 6,32,302	4,15,867	2,16,435
Expenditure	Rs. 4,66,127	2,86,111	1,70,016
Net Revenue	Rs. 1,66,175	1,29,756	46,419

Thus, there was a decrease of Rs. 2,16,435 in the gross and of Rs. 46,419 in the net revenue.

10. The revenue of the Forest Department in Sind depends, and so far as can be judged, must for many years continue to depend, mainly upon the sale of fuel to the N. W. Railway. During the year the Railway Administration having large stocks of fuel on hand reduced their demands, while the question of using petroleum or coal instead of wood fuel was under discussion. The amount of wood taken by the railway was 3,72,476 maunds, as against 15,13,278 maunds supplied in the previous year. The net loss of revenue on this account was Rs. 74,470, while the decrease in the net revenue of the Department was only Rs. 46,419. Hence if the demand for railway fuel had been the same as in the previous year there would have been an increase of Rs. 28,051 in the net revenue. This amount has been made up partly by improved receipts from other sources and partly by a reduction in the expenditure, which has fallen from 65·7 to 61·3 per cent. on the gross receipts.

11. The question of the terms on which fuel should be supplied to the railway has been under discussion for some time, and in order to prevent a dead lock, it was absolutely necessary that some understanding should be arrived at. At a meeting between the Commissioner and the Director, N. W. Railway, on the 2nd April, it was agreed (1) that fuel should be supplied at the present rates up to the 1st April 1890; (2) that after that date a royalty of Rs. 12 per 1,000 cubic feet should be paid in addition to actual cost of cutting and delivery; (3) that fuel supplied by the Forest Department

should be used at all stations at which it can be supplied cheaper than fuel supplied elsewhere; and (4) that in every case in which the Director may be able to show that fuel can be obtained more cheaply from other sources, a reduction will be made in the royalty sufficient to make it profitable to the railway to take fuel supplied by the Forest Department. These terms were accepted by the Director under protest and subject to the orders of the Government of India, which it was his intention to apply for; but as they are in accordance with the principles laid down in the Government of India's letter No. 1263 F, dated the 6th November 1888, to the address of the Bombay Government, and are fair to both Departments, it is not expected that the Government of India will consider it necessary to make any modification in the arrangement.

12. The business of the depôts in the Sukkur Division having suffered considerably from the competition of timber imported by river from the Punjab and Bahawalpur, the Conservator recommended that a duty should be placed on imported timber. But as it was considered unfair to tax the consumer in order to protect the revenue of the Forest Department, it was resolved to reduce the selling prices of timber at these depôts by 20 per cent. The result of this experiment is not yet known, but Colonel McRae does not consider that receipts will be raised to their former level.

13. There is nothing else in the report which calls for special comment. The administration of the Department has been successfully carried on by Colonel McRae under circumstances of considerable difficulty, and his subordinates also appear to have done good work.

A. C. TREVOR,
Acting Commissioner in Sind.

*Forest Administration Reports of the Bombay Presidency, including Sind,
for 1888-89.*

No. 3012.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

Bombay Castle, 2nd May 1890.

Letter from the Conservator of Forests, Sind Circle, No. 828, dated 10th September 1889—
Forwarding the Forest Administration Report of the Sind Circle for the year 1888-89
with its subsidiary statements.

Memorandum from the Commissioner in Sind, No. 3461, dated 24th September 1889—Sub-
mitting the above with his remarks.

Letter from the Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle, No. 3696, dated 31st October 1889—
Submitting the Forest Administration Report of the Northern Circle for the year
1888-89 with its subsidiary statements.

Memorandum from the Commissioner, Northern Division, No. 17, dated 5th January 1890. } Submitting their remarks on the
Letter from the Commissioner, Central Division, No. R- } Forest Administration Report of
445, dated 27th January 1890. } the Northern Circle.

Letter from the Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle, No. 3402A., dated 16th November
1889—Submitting the Forest Administration Report of the Southern Circle for the year
1888-89 with its subsidiary statements.

Memorandum from the Commissioner, Southern Division, No. 105, dated 15th January 1890—
Submitting, with his remarks, the Forest Administration Report of the Southern Circle.

Letter from the Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle, No. 4816, dated 18th January
1890—Stating, with reference to Government Resolution No. 8144, dated 26th October
1889, that he has in his administration report for 1888-89 reported fully on the general
condition of the forests as regards reproduction.

Letter from the Conservator of Forests, Sind Circle, No. 1626, dated 25th January 1890—
Stating, with reference to Government Resolution No. 8144, dated 26th October 1889,
that he has gone rather fully into the subject of reproduction in his annual report
for 1888-89.

Letter from the Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle, No. 4422, dated 28th January
1890—Submitting the report called for in Government Resolution No. 8144, dated 26th
October 1889.

Memorandum from the Commissioner, Northern Division, No. 619, dated 28th February
1890—Forwarding, with reference to paragraph 6 of his office No. 17, dated 5th January
1890, a letter from the Collector of Surat, who states that the forest settlement of lands
notified under Section 34 of the Indian Forest Act in that district has been completed
while that of a small area of lands notified under Section 4 in Bulsar and Pardi is in
progress.

Letter from the Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle, No. 5355, dated 29th March 1890—
Submitting the explanation called for by Government regarding outstandings in the
North Kanara Division.

RESOLUTION.—The financial results of the administration of the Forest
Department during the year 1888-89 are shown in the following statement, which
comprises also the corresponding figures of the previous year:—

	Receipts.		Expenditure.		Net Revenue.	
	1887-88.	1888-89.	1887-88.	1888-89.	1887-88.	1888-89.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Northern Circle ...	9,68,625	11,60,769	7,23,135	7,27,412	2,45,490	4,33,357
Southern Circle ...	14,34,650	12,73,554	7,46,260	6,75,601	6,88,390	5,97,953
Sind Circle ...	6,32,302	4,15,867	4,66,127	2,86,111	1,66,175	1,29,756
Total ...	30,35,577	28,50,190	19,35,522	16,89,124	11,00,055	11,61,066

The gross receipts, Rs. 28,50,190, have decreased by Rs. 1,85,387, but the expenditure having been reduced by Rs. 2,46,398, there is a net increase of revenue of Rs. 61,011, the total net revenue for the year being Rs. 11,61,066.

2. The increase is wholly in the Northern Circle where the results obtained are, in the opinion of His Excellency in Council, highly creditable to Mr. Shuttleworth and the officers serving under him. The gross revenue of that Circle is the largest on record by Rs. 1,23,472, while the net revenue exceeds that of the

1887-88.					Rs.
Receipts	...	...	...	...	16,445
Expenditure	...	...	...	...	29,302
Balance					-12,857
1888-89.					Rs.
Receipts	...	...	...	...	24,647
Expenditure	...	...	...	...	27,604
Balance					-2,957

previous year by Rs. 1,87,867. The chief items of increase are timber (more than a lách) and grazing fees. Only one Division of the Northern Circle, namely, Sholapur, failed to balance receipts and expenditure, but even in that Division a considerable improvement on the financial position of the previous year is discernible, the deficit having been reduced from Rs. 12,857 in 1887-88 to Rs. 2,957 in the year under review, as shown in the margin.

3. Further analysis of the figures of the Northern Circle shows that there has been an increase in both gross and net revenue in all Divisions except the Panch Maháls, which gives a decrease of Rs. 8,778 gross and Rs. 8,609 net revenue. This decrease is explained to be due to fewer sales of timber during the year consequent on a combination among the Godhra timber merchants. Looking to the position of the Panch Maháls as lying on the confines of, and connected by railway with, the teakless plain of Northern Gujarát, with its well-to-do and dense population, the Governor in Council trusts that every attempt will be made to render the Forest Department sales independent of local combinations by opening a wider market for the sale of the timber of that Division.

The most notable increases were in the Surat and South Thána Divisions. In the former, the increase of revenue was on account of the better prices obtained at the auction sales of the wood of the Upper Dángs: in the case of South Thána Division, the increase in receipts was in some measure due to sales of timber in connection with the Tánsa Water-works.

It is observed with satisfaction that in the Thána Divisions the tendency noticed in previous reviews to diminution of the departmental fellings with a more than corresponding increase in contract fellings still continues.

4. In the Southern Circle the decrease in net revenue is Rs. 90,437, from which Mr. MacGregor would deduct Rs. 63,052, being the excess of outstandings in the year over the previous year. It is impossible to adopt this reasoning, for the arrears, if recovered, will be credited in the accounts of the ensuing year. In his letter No. 5355, dated 29th March 1890, the Conservator states, in explanation of the heavy outstandings in the Northern Division of Kánara, that the "merchants who bought the wood in auction were unable to sell it quickly, and consequently it was not quickly removed from depôt." Provided the safeguards mentioned by Mr. MacGregor are fully observed, the practice appears unobjectionable and may be allowed to continue.

5. In the Southern Circle the only Division worked at a loss is Ratnágiri, and it is satisfactory to observe that in that Division appreciable progress has been made towards, at least, an equalization of receipts and expenditure, the loss to Government in the year under review being Rs. 1,468 as against Rs. 9,849 in

1887-88.					Rs.
Receipts	...	...	...	...	10,311
Expenditure	...	...	...	...	20,160
Balance					-9,849
1888-89.					Rs.
Receipts	...	...	...	...	12,050
Expenditure	...	...	...	...	13,518
Balance					-1,468

the previous year.* While the expenditure (chiefly under establishment, demarcation and law charges) has decreased, the revenue from timber has risen from Rs. 9,108 to Rs. 10,731. In the Central Kánara Division, the net revenue has fallen from Rs. 1,87,887 to Rs. 1,06,287; the decrease is almost entirely under "timber," and is reported to be due to the very limited demand for sleepers for the Southern Mahrátta Railway. In the Belgaum Division, while

the gross revenue has fallen from Rs. 3,39,847 to Rs. 2,84,064, the net revenue shows a decrease of Rs. 4,447 only. In the case of firewood sales in this Division, it is observed that there is a *decrease* in gross receipts of Rs. 31,518, but the net receipts from this source have *increased* by no less an amount than Rs. 10,954. In connection with the difficulties of transport, the proposals of the Conservator for the construction of a forest tramway have been considered by Government and it has been shown in Resolution No. 4605, dated 29th June 1889, that it is very much more to the interest of the Railway Company than to that of the Forest Department that such a tramway should be constructed and that the Company are in a better condition than Government to undertake its construction and working. The financial results of the administration of the other Divisions of this Circle do not call for particular notice.

6. In the Sind Circle there is a decrease in net revenue of Rs. 36,419. The Conservator has erroneously stated the decrease at Rs. 46,419, an error adopted by the Commissioner in Sind in paragraph 9 of his forwarding memorandum. Receipts from firewood and charcoal exhibit a net decrease of Rs. 60,269, which, Colonel MacRae states, is due to the North-Western Railway having had a large stock of fuel on hand at the commencement of the year, so that a smaller supply was indented for during the year. At a conference held with the Railway authorities on the subject, it was arranged that the existing rates charged for fuel supplied to the Railway should continue in force up to 1st April 1890, after which date new rates were to be charged. Government are glad to see that Colonel MacRae is fully alive to the necessity of developing and stimulating a demand for wood independent of the requirements of the North-Western Railway and that his efforts in this direction have met with some measure of success. 222,625 cubic feet of firewood were exported to Bombay, Káthiáwár and other ports, while with a view to increasing the trade in wood between Bombay Presidency proper and Sind, a monopoly for three years of exporting wood to Bombay and Cutch Mándvi was granted to a contractor.

7. In Form 58 appended to the Sind Circle report a sum of Rs. 32,222-13-7 is entered under "Revenue V. Miscellaneous (c) Other sources." The amount considerably exceeds that shown under the same sub-head in the reports of the Northern and Southern Circles and the Conservator should be asked to state how it is made up and whether it includes the assessment levied on lands under cultivation within forest limits, referred to by the Conservator in paragraph 8 of his memorandum.

8. The changes in the forest area during the year are shown in the following statement :—

Circle.	AREA ON 1ST APRIL 1888.		ADDED.		EXCLUDED.		AREA ON 31ST MARCH 1889.	
	Reserved.	Protected.	Reserved.	Protect- ed.	Reserv- ed.	Protect- ed.	Reserved.	Protected.
	Sq. Ms.	Sq. Ms.	Sq. Ms.	Sq. Ms.	Sq. Ms.	Sq. Ms.	Sq. Ms.	Sq. Ms.
Northern Circle ...	7,128	1,066	328	1	10	20	7,446	1,047
Southern Circle ...	1,817	3,412	2	...	...	...	1,819	3,412
Sind Circle ...	893	1	93	...	13	...	973	1
Total ...	9,838	4,479	423	1	23	20	10,238	4,460

In the Northern Circle, of the area shown as added during the year, 83 square miles represent a nominal increase only, being due to rectification of forest areas in the Násik Division which had previously been incorrectly recorded. Otherwise, the main additions in that Circle are accounted for by reservations in Násik (Peint and Igatpuri Tálukas) and East Khándesh. The greater portion of the 20 square miles of protected forest disforested during the year has since been included in reserved forest. A small area was added to reserved forest in the Belgaum Division of the Southern Circle. In Sind, the increase occurs chiefly

in the Naushahro Division, while the exclusion of 13 square miles of reserved forest is explained to be due to changes in the course of the river. The lands thus lost, however, were of no great value, and were for the most part used as grazing grounds.

9. The figures relating to progress of settlement are not given with clearness in any of the reports now under consideration. While the areas added to forest during the year do not include areas in respect of which settlement was completed but not sanctioned during the year, so, on the other hand, they include areas settled in the previous year and sanctioned during the year under review. It is however clear that the settlement of forest areas notified under Section 34 of the Indian Forest Act is not progressing as expeditiously as is desirable. The following are the figures for the year :—

	Area settled during the year. Sq. miles.	Area remaining to be settled. Sq. miles.
Northern Circle ...	105	1,972
Southern Circle ...	308	3,165
Sind Circle ...	...	...
Total ...	413	5,137

In paragraph 57 of his report the Conservator, Northern Circle, has shown an area of 84 square miles of Reserved Forest notified under Section 34 in the Násik Division in which rights have not been enquired into and recorded. This area did not appear in Mr. Shuttleworth's report of the previous year, and the reason of its inclusion now should have been explained. It is presumed that the area has no connection with the 83 square miles referred to in the preceding paragraph, as the fact of the latter being incorrectly recorded could not affect the validity or the extent of the settlement.

In respect of areas notified under Sections 4 and 28 of the Act, the settlement remaining to be done appears to be as follows :—

In Northern Circle	568 square miles.
„ Sind Circle	49 „

The Conservator, Southern Circle, has not given the corresponding figures for his Circle.

10. In paragraph 2 of his report, and again in paragraph 17, the Conservator, Sind Circle, states that no expenditure was incurred during the year under the head of Forest Demarcation and Settlement, but this statement cannot be reconciled with Form 58 appended to his report, which shows an expenditure under “VIII (a) demarcation” of Rs. 791-6-4. The total expenditure under that head in all three Circles amounted during the year to Rs. 32,468.

11. The year saw the institution, from 1st October 1888, of a special Forest Survey Branch, for the conducting, under the orders and supervision of this Government, of topographical surveys of the forests of the Presidency. The survey party worked at various times throughout the year in the Thána, Násik, Poona, Sátára and Kánára Divisions. The amount of detail survey work done is reported to have been as under :—

Survey on 4" to the mile scale.	Square miles.	Cost, Rs.
Northern Circle	317	20,605
Southern Circle	132.75	25,200
Survey on 8" to the mile scale.		
Northern Circle	139.477	22,619.

or 449.75 square miles on the 4" scale and 139.477 square miles on the 8" scale at a total cost of Rs. 68,424. From the information embodied in the Conservators' reports, it is not clear whether these figures relate to the period from 1st October 1888 or from 1st April 1883 to 31st March 1889. The cost per square mile—the only profitable datum for estimates of survey work—is given as follows :—

Scale.		Rs.	
4" to the mile.	Northern Circle ...	...	65 per square mile.
Do.	Southern Circle ...	...	190 "
8" to the mile.	Northern Circle ...	...	187 "

The vast difference between the cost of surveys on the 4" to the mile scale in the two Circles is remarkable, but is possibly attributable to the more rugged and difficult nature of the forest tract surveyed in the Southern Circle. As compared with the surveys of the previous year, which cost per square mile—

Scale.		Rs.	
In Southern Circle, 8" to the mile	250 per square mile.
„ Northern Circle 8" do.	272 do.

there is a very appreciable improvement, but the cost is still much greater than was anticipated and estimated by Government. Without more accurate and detailed figures, it would be futile to attempt further consideration of the survey work done and the cost thereof, but as such information is mainly desirable in respect of operations that will cost Government for some years to come a large annual sum, the Survey and Settlement Commissioner should be asked to submit yearly a report on the working of the Forest Survey Party. The Commissioner should also be requested to state whether he would propose that his report be for the year ending 31st March, or for that ending 30th June. Mr. Shuttleworth's opinion—reiterated in his present report—on the scale of the survey maps has already been laid before Government and orders passed thereon.

12. In the Northern Circle the Working Plans Division continued its work in the two Thána Divisions. It is reported that the whole reserved forest area of the Divisions, and a certain portion—not specified—of the protected forests have come under the operations of the Working Plans Division. Looking to this fact, and to the results of the year's work set out in paragraph 72 of Mr. Shuttleworth's report, Government are of opinion that the Conservator should be in a position to present, in future reports, valuable information as to the capabilities of the Thána forests and whether they have hitherto been under or overworked. In the Southern Circle the operations were, as in the previous year, confined to a percentage enumeration and measurement of trees in certain areas of the North Kánara Division. About 9 square miles were so treated, and, in view of the staff employed, this cannot be considered to be a very satisfactory result. So far as the work yet done affords a basis for drawing any conclusion as to the capabilities of the forests, Mr. MacGregor thinks that the area is greatly underworked, and increased exploitation might with advantage be carried out. His Excellency in Council, however, considers that this opinion is somewhat premature and desires that the calculation of the forest stock may be vigorously pushed forward. In Sind, about 26 square miles of forest were surveyed, while the work of dividing the forests into compartments is reported to be approaching completion.

13. The number of prosecutions for forest offences was as shown in the following table :—

Circle.	1887-88.		1888-89.		Percentage of failures.	
	Prosecutions.	Acquittals.	Prosecutions.	Acquittals.	1887-88.	1888-89.
Northern Circle ...	709	171	1,031	255	24·1	24·7
Southern Circle ...	108	33	129	31	31·	24·
Sind Circle ...	130	52	105	42	40·	40·
Total ...	947	256	1,265	328	27·03	25·92

The result is satisfactory, except in the Sind Circle, where the percentage of failures is considerably higher than in the other two Circles. Colonel McRae remarks that "the results compare favourably with those of last year, as regards proportion of convictions to the number of cases tried", but, as will be seen from the above table, that proportion has remained unaltered.

The following figures represent the number of cases compounded under Section 67 of the Indian Forest Act and the amounts accepted by way of compensation for damage done or for value of property :—

Circle.	1887-88.		1888-89.	
	Cases.	Amount.	Cases.	Amount.
		Rs.		Rs.
Northern Circle	5,142	8,003	6,154	11,272
Southern Circle	652	1,462	599	2,271
Sind Circle	1,447	4,341	1,493	4,316
Total	7,241	13,806	8,246	17,859

14. The area traversed by fire in the Northern Circle was 1,588 square miles or 18·7 of the total forest area. This is a large increase on the area burnt in the previous year, namely, 947 square miles, but one reason, no doubt, was the unfavourable character of the season owing to the late setting in of the rains. The increase occurred almost entirely in the West Khándesh and Surat Divisions (the Dángs). The portion of the latter forest burnt in the previous year is now stated to have been incorrectly reported. The Conservator, Southern Circle, confines himself to "fire-protected" areas, and does not give the figures of total area burnt, on the ground, it is presumed, that the figures submitted to him by his subordinates are unreliable; but it is the duty of the Conservator to insist on correct returns, and in this connection the system inaugurated by Mr. Shuttleworth in the Northern Circle, as detailed in paragraph 111 of his report of the previous year, might well command Mr. MacGregor's attention. The budget estimate under the head "Protection from fire" was reduced in the Southern Circle from Rs. 15,560 to Rs. 11,000. The Conservator states that this reduction, of which he received intimation on the 2nd January 1889, necessitated his stopping all further fire-protection until he learnt what works had been already carried out, that fresh allotments to Divisions had then to be made, and fresh schemes prepared by the Divisional officers, and before all this could be accomplished, the fires had begun. In the end, the expenditure on fire-protection amounted to Rs. 3,514-2-10 only, or less than one-third of the sanctioned budget allotment. His Excellency in Council does not consider this satisfactory. All that the Conservator was required to do, on receiving intimation of the reduction referred to, was to make proportionate reductions in the provisional allotments to the several Divisions, and this slight modification might easily have been carried out without bringing the work of "fire-protection" to a dead stop. In Resolution No. 1942, dated 24th March 1888, Government sanctioned the general rule (except in the Panch Maháls) that where the Collector is satisfied that there has been co-operation, connivance or gross negligence, or indifference, on the part of the village population as a whole, free-grazing be stopped in Government forests for one year when more than one-third of the forest is burnt, and for two years when more than half is burned. The Governor in Council must first be satisfied that the present measures for stopping fires have been fully tried and found to be inadequate, before he can entertain proposals for severer orders.

15 The remarks made by Mr. Shuttleworth regarding privileges conceded to villagers being, for the most part, a criticism of orders passed by Government after full consideration of objections urged by him, are out of place and should not have been made. His statement (paragraph 43) that the Kálol forests "remain protected" is incorrect: these forests are, and always have been, reserved.

16. The reports now reviewed are valuable and interesting and have been perused with much interest by His Excellency in Council. The administration of the forests of the State is fraught with many difficulties, and these the Conservators have sedulously striven to overcome. They deserve the thanks of Govern-

ment for their year's work. In particular, Mr. Shuttleworth's untiring zeal and his thorough grasp of the administration of his charge are fully appreciated. Government observe with pleasure the commendatory remarks made by the Conservators on the officers serving under them, and to which they are justly entitled.

J. DEC. ATKINS,
Acting Under Secretary to Government.

To

The Conservator of Forests, N. C.,
The Conservator of Forests, S. C.,
The Conservator of Forests, Sind Circle,
The Commissioner in Sind,
The Commissioner, N. D.,
The Commissioner, C. D.,
The Commissioner, S. D.,
The Survey and Settlement Commissioner,
The Director of Land Records and Agriculture,
All Collectors, including the Collectors and Deputy Commissioners in Sind.
The Accountant General,
The Editors' Tables,
The Government of India, } (by letter).
The Secretary of State, }

For the office of the Working plans party No II New
3rd April 1891

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS.

OF THE

FOREST DEPARTMENT

IN THE

BOMBAY PRESIDENCY,

INCLUDING

SIND,

FOR THE YEAR 1889-90.

Bombay:

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1891.



SOUTHERN CIRCLE.

No. 3100-A OF 1890-91.

FROM

J. L. L. MACGREGOR, ESQUIRE,
Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle;

TO

JOHN NUGENT, ESQUIRE,
Chief Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department, Bombay.

Belgaum, 18th October 1890.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit herewith the Forest Administration Report of the Southern Circle for the year 1889-90, with its subsidiary statements.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

J. L. L. MACGREGOR,
Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle.

THROUGH THE COMMISSIONER, SOUTHERN DIVISION.

